AND THERE CAME A DAY, A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES OPENED THEIR DOORS TO TEACH THE NEXT GENERATION! ON THAT DAY, THE AVENGERS ACADEMY WAS BORN, TO TRAIN YOUNG ADULTS TO FIGHT THE FOES NO SINGLE SUPER HERO COULD WITHSTAND!

AVENGERS ACADEMY

FINESSE

PHOTOGRAPHIC FIGHTER. ALL HEAD, NO HEART.

HAZMAT

HUMAN TOXIC SPILL. CAUSTIC PERSONALITY.

METTLE

STEEL-SKINNED POWERHOUSE. ARMORED SHELL PROTECTING INNER FEELINGS.

REPTIL

DINOSAUR MORPHER. FUTURE HERO OR NAIVE OPTIMIST?

STRIKER

ELECTRIC DYNAMO. SELF-PROMOTES THROUGH SHOCK TACTICS.

VEIL

VARIABLE GAS GENERATOR. UNSEEN POTENTIAL... UNTIL SHE DISCORPORATES.

ORIGINAL AVENGER **HANK PYM** FOUNDED **THE AVENGERS ACADEMY** TO HELP GUIDE THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERHUMANS IN THE NOBLE TRADITION OF EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES. THE INAUGURAL CLASS – WHO WERE PREVIOUSLY RECRUITED AND TORTURED BY **NORMAN OSBORN** – HAS SECRETLY LEARNED THE SHOCKING TRUTH: THEY WERE NOT SELECTED BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE GREATEST POTENTIAL TO BECOME HEROES...BUT BECAUSE THEY WERE MOST AT RISK TO BECOME VILLAINS.

A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY AND FEAR GRIPS THE WORLD. **SIN,** THE DAUGHTER OF THE **RED SKULL**, HAS UNLEASHED AN ANCIENT EVIL INTO THE WORLD: THE FORGOTTEN ASGARDIAN KNOWN ONLY AS **THE SERPENT**, WHO HAS SUMMONED HIS WORTHY, CAUSING SEVEN CELESTIAL HAMMERS TO FALL FROM THE SKIES.

WITH PYM BUSY FIGHTING **THE ABSORBING MAN** AND **TITANIA** IN DUBAI, THE STUDENTS WERE CALLED TO DEFEND WASHINGTON, D.C.FROM THE ATTACKS OF SIN AND HER ARMY OF MECHANIZED SOLDIERS, THE FIRST WORLDWIDE THREAT TO TEST THEIR NEW AVENGERS TRAINING. ALREADY, **METTLE** AND **VEIL** HAVE KILLED ENEMY SOLDIERS, AND THE FULL EFFECT ON THEIR PSYCHES IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING TO SHOW.

HOWEVER, BEFORE THE STUDENTS CAN COME TO GRIPS WITH THE COSTS OF WAR, THE ABSORBING MAN AND TITANIA USE THEIR NEWFOUND ABILITIES TO TELEPORT TO UNDERSPACE AND ATTACK THE INFINITE AVENGERS MANSION. WITH THE DIMENSIONAL DOORS DESTROYED, THE STUDENTS FIND THEMSELVES TRAPPED IN UNDERSPACE WITH NOTHING BUT TWO ANGRY GODS!

GIANT-MAN

SIZE-CHANGING SCIENTIST SUPREME.

TIGRA

CAT WOMAN. ENHANCED STRENGTH, AGILITY AND ATTITUDE.

QUICKSILVER

SURLY SPEEDSTER.

JUSTICE

TELEKINETIC MORAL COMPASS.

SPEEDBALL

KINETIC ENERGY MANIPULATOR. TRYING TO BOUNCE BACK.

JOCASTA

SYNTHETIC BEING. LOYAL TO GIANT-MAN... OR ULTRON?

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Oh, snap, the Microverse! That's right, folks, things only get crazier from here…in just two weeks! But you don't have to wait one more second for your letters:

First off, WOW, AVENGERS ACADEMY is by far the best comic I have read in a long time. I look forward to every issue coming out. Second, issue #15 was pure amazing, it was gritty, war torn and kept my heart pounding every second. A comic has never made me feel this way and I cannot wait for the next issue. Thanks to all of you for doing a FANTASTIC job, and keep up the great work!!!

Derek McFadden
Houston, TX

Derek, thank YOU for reading and for your kind words! Ever since I started writing this book, I knew that sooner or later there would be a big event that the kids would get involved in, and I planned for it to go this way… for it to be their first taste of war. Let's not forget that many of the brave servicemen and women who have served (and are still serving) in wars throughout our history were eighteen or not much older, so showing the intensity and horror of young people in a situation like this is something I felt was important. I'm glad to hear it got across for you.

Wow, I just wrote you about the appearance of Ruby Thursday in #14.1, mentioning her old teammate Arthur Nagan, and as I read #15 today, there he is, right on page 4! What service! Surely, a full appearance by the Headmen is on the horizon!

You managed to get some great character moments into the issue, in the midst of the FEAR ITSELF tie-in -- especially the killing of the pilot by Mettle. Tom Raney did a great job with that two-page sequence.

The killing has to have a significant impact on Mettle and I look forward to seeing the fallout in future issues. I feel like we need a pool on which of the kids end up on the super-villain path first...I bet you'll surprise us.

Keep 'em coming!

Rob Anderson
Alexandria, VA

Rob, I could not agree more about the amazing job Tom Raney did with issue #15. As for Mettle, you're right, he will be struggling with the repercussions of what happened on that battlefield for some time to come. And I hope I do continue to surprise you! On the downside, no Headmen appearance. That's just too much awesome for one comic. And our awesome level is already in the danger zone, as our next reader has noticed!

Thank you for creating such an awesome comic book! I am a long time Marvel reader and this is definitely my favorite book. I heard about AVENGERS ACADEMY from a friend and decided to pick the .1 issue. Issue #14.1 was amazing. Christos Gage did a great job of introducing these characters. It was a surprise to me that I could care so much about characters that I was just introduced to. The art was great, especially in issue #15. Tom Raney did a great job depicting each and every character with great personal emotion, especially Giant-Man. Keep up the great work!

Armond June
Buffalo, NY

Armond, that's fantastic, welcome aboard! I'm so glad to hear the Point One issue did its job in drawing you into AVENGERS ACADEMY. I hope you'll be with us for a long time to come. And please thank your friend for the recommendation!

I know I'm late to the party on this one as issue #15 is already out (and what a stellar issue it was!) but I'm writing in regards to the special .1 issue. I really enjoyed the character of Jeremy Briggs, he's the kind of practical genius who doesn't show up in super hero comics very often, if ever. When he laid out his case to the kids, and invited them to join, I was, and still am, totally convinced. Finesse accusing him of villainy was the perfect predictable super hero response, and it was interesting to see that even the smartest, most logical member of the team still couldn't get past her masks and capes indoctrination.

Jeremy's calm and reasonable response gave him even more brownie points, yet the heroes still couldn't wrap their heads around a life without costumes to the point where, like their idols, they immediately resorted to violence. I've always found it ironic that the smartest minds in the Marvel Universe (Stark, Richards, etc.) almost always end up using violence as their ultimate solution. For super geniuses they sure are quick to throw a punch, and it's neat to see a character like Jeremy with a different, more sensible approach.

When Jeremy refused to kill them, and then called them "products of the educational system," it was the perfect commentary on the super hero culture. I sure hope to see Jeremy again, and perhaps even see one of the kids come around to his way of thinking, unlikely as that may be. He's far too interesting to not bring back.

Keep up the great work, guys, loved the book since issue #1!

James Carter
Vancouver, B.C.

Wow, James, it sounds like Jeremy's sales pitch worked on you! Fear not, Jeremy Briggs will return. But in Tony Stark and Reed Richards' defense, how much fun would it be to read a comic about a reasoned negotiation? Give me giant Nazi robots anytime!

Lastly, let me thank old buddy Andrea Di Vito for lending his awesome art this time out. If you enjoyed our collaboration, pick up the WORLD WAR HULK: X-MEN trade paperback! And be here next time for a shocking event that has been coming since our first issue! Do not miss it!

Christos Gage

NEXT!

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